

Strategy: Expansion: Increase Infant/Toddler			
Strategy Description Recruits new or existing providers to begin to serve or expand services. May assist with planning, licensing or certification process for new centers or homes, or provide support to a provider to improve the quality of facility or programs.			
Strategy Narrative <p>The Regional Council's goal is to provide a continuum of quality education and care to address this prioritized need beginning with infants and toddlers and ending with children through five years of age. They also recognize the unique needs of quality infant and toddler care programming. To that end, they chose to support an expansion and improvement strategy specifically focused on improving the quality of infant and toddler care. This strategy will test an intervention that introduces and supports programs in implementing two widely held strategies viewed as pivotal to successful outcomes for young children in center-based care, namely, primary care giving and continuity of care. It will implement a carefully selected set of program improvement components identified by a team of nationally known infant and toddler experts. Because of its strong evaluation component, the strategy will inform the Regional Council on the best and most successful quality improvements for infant and toddler programming and will provide guidance about how to proceed with infant and toddler quality initiatives in the Central Maricopa County region in the future. Ongoing communication and information with other quality initiatives such as Quality First will be shared in order to inform and support best practices for quality improvement programs.</p>			
Target Population Description <p>This strategy works to expand the number of high quality infant and toddler classrooms in the Central Maricopa Region. The target population is infants and toddlers, birth through three years of age who are in non-Quality First center based care. Six to eight programs will be recruited to participate in the pilot program to improve the quality of infant and toddler care and early education in the region using standardized and qualitative measures to determine effectiveness. The target number of classrooms for the first phase of the project is 20. Phase II and Phase III will target 25 classrooms to allow for attrition. The Regional Council is committed to supporting quality care improvement strategies across the spectrum to provide families and the early childhood community a variety of entry points into the early childhood system.</p>			
Target Service Units	FY 13	FY 14	FY 15
Number of center based providers served	20	20	20
Number of home based providers served	0	0	0
Number of increased slots for participating children	0	0	0
Funding Level	FY 13	FY 14	FY 15
Expansion: Increase Infant/Toddler	\$400,000	\$400,000	\$400,000